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Jean Fiorito, Executive Director

CT Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents

2189 Silas Deane Highway

Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Re: SB-293

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Urban and honorable members of the Select Committee on Children,

I am the executive director of the CT Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents. We support, train and advocate for foster, adoptive and relative caregiver parents in the state of CT. There are currently over 3000 foster families in the state and thousands of adoptive parents.

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 293, An Act Providing Certain Adult Adopted Persons with Access to Parental Health Information and Information in Their Original Birth Certificates.

Adopted adults are the only group of citizens who are denied the right to access to their own birth records. From the time of their birth, others have made the decisions regarding their life issues. As adults, they have the right to make their own decisions. It is a basic human right to know one's own identity. Adopted persons are the only people denied that right by law.

Adopted individuals are in need of knowing their medical histories. When the adoptee was surrendered for adoption, the parent's medical history was only as good as that point in time. Many medical conditions do not appear until later in life, which becomes the crux of the issue. It is important for adopted adults and their children to know the medical conditions which have affected their birth family. Every doctor asks for medical history, and adopted individuals usually are unable to provide this critical information. This bill in Sec.2.Section 7-51, (e), allows birth parents to be contacted to complete a health history form when a request is made for the original birth certificate.

2008 Recipient of The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's *Angel in Adoption Award*

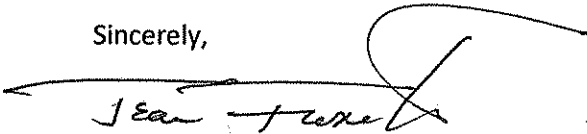
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Unfortunately, this bill as written does not become effective until October, 2011. It continues to limit the ability of adoptees from previous years of getting this information as well. Adoption records in CT were open until 1974. By not allowing information to be given to adoptees until adoptions that are finalized after October 2011, there remains a 37 year gap in the lives of adoptees where they are unable to access this information. I would ask the committee to revise this bill to allow this information to be accessed retroactively to 1974.

I ask that the committee fully support Senate Bill 293. Adopted adults have the right and the need for their original birth certificate and health information in order to be fully aware of their personal histories and to act responsibly as adults.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Connecticut's children in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean Fiorito", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Jean Fiorito

Executive Director